

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A laminate comprising at least one anaerobically degradable layer, wherein the anaerobically degradable layer has:
 - (a) an increase in basis weight of at least about 10%; and
 - (b) a decrease in tensile elongation of at least about 30% after being immersed in an active anaerobic sludge medium for 28 days.
2. The laminate of Claim 1 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises an anaerobically degradable polymer and at least about 0.1 wt% of inorganic salts.
3. The laminate of Claim 2 wherein the anaerobically- degradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyestersamides, polyhydroxyalkoates, and mixtures thereof.
4. The laminate of Claim 3 wherein the polyesteramide has a melting temperature in the range of from about 90°C to about 190°C.
5. The laminate of Claim 3 wherein the polyesteramide comprises from about 20 to about 80 wt% ester and from about 20 to about 80 wt% amide.
6. The laminate of Claim 5 wherein the polyesteramide comprises from about 30 to about 50 wt% ester and from about 50 to about 70 wt% amide.
7. The laminate of Claim 2 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 0.1 wt% to about 60 wt% of inorganic salts comprising metal ions selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, titanium, silicon, aluminum, and mixtures thereof.
8. The laminate of Claim 7 wherein the inorganic salts are selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium phosphate, titanium oxide, silicone oxide, aluminum oxide, and mixtures thereof.
9. The laminate of Claim 2 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer further comprises processing aids, fillers, surfactants, plasticizers, compatibilizers, impact modifiers, nucleating agents, anti-oxidants, heat or ultraviolet stabilizers, colorants, anti-static agents, lubricants, blowing agents, dispersants, thickening agents, antimicrobials, and mixtures thereof.
10. The laminate of Claim 1 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer is resistant to mold growth.

11. A laminate comprising at least one anaerobically degradable layer, wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises an anaerobically degradable polymer and a water-responsive polymer and the anaerobically degradable layer has one or more of the following:
 - (a) a change in basis weight of at least about 5%;
 - (b) a decrease in tensile strength of at least about 20%;
 - (c) a decrease in tensile elongation of at least about 30%after being immersed in an active anaerobic sludge medium for one hour.
12. The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 50 to about 100 wt% of the anaerobically degradable polymer and from about 0 to about 50 wt% of the water-responsive polymer.
13. The laminate of Claim 12 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 60 to about 95 wt% of the anaerobically degradable polymer and from about 5 to about 40 wt% of the water-responsive polymer.
14. The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the anaerobically degradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyesteramide, polyhydroxyalkoate, and mixtures thereof, and the water-insoluble biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide, poly(ethylene-propylene) oxide, poly(lactic acid), polycaprolactone, aliphatic-aromatic copolyester, polyalkylene succinate, polyalkylene succinate adipate, starch and derivatives, hydroxyalkylcellulose, alkyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.
15. The laminate of Claim 11 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer further comprises at least about 0.1wt% of inorganic salts.
16. The laminate of Claim 15 wherein the anaerobically degradable layer comprises from about 0.1 wt% to about 60 wt% of inorganic salts comprising metal ions selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, titanium, silicon, aluminum, and mixtures thereof.
17. An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein at least a portion of the topsheet or the backsheet comprises the laminate of Claim 11.
18. A tampon applicator assembly comprising a barrel and a plunger, wherein at least a portion of the barrel or the plunger comprises the laminate of Claim 11.